



Rita Ann Riley

October 16, 1958 - September 11, 2025

Rita Ann Riley (Hancock) passed away on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at her home with her husband Bill and family by her side. Rita was born on October 16, 1958, and was the first daughter of Chester and Hannah Hancock. Rita lived her entire life in La Plata, Maryland surrounded by her large family and many friends that she made wherever she went.

Rita's childhood was spent at her family farm with her six siblings where they farmed the land and raised livestock. With her involvement in farming, she was named the 1974 Charles County Farm Queen where she got to visit Washington D.C. and compete against other ladies from among Maryland for the state title. She graduated with honors from La Plata High School in 1976. During this time, she began dating Bill and they later married on October 7, 1978. Her daughter, Rebecca Ann, was born a few years later in 1983. She went on to work as a medical secretary for two different prominent area doctors for the remainder of her life.

Throughout her life Rita loved spending time outdoors, whether it was still helping on the farm, or in her own garden at home. She also enjoyed sports and played both volleyball and softball for many years in both recreational and Christian Church leagues. Rita spent time on the water with Bill fishing and crabbing in Southern Maryland waters. She also loved showing her faith at La Plata United Methodist Church where she was on several committees and

was always willing to lend a hand. Most of all Rita loved spending time with her family and friends she considered family, including her three granddaughters, Natalie, Bethany, and Cassidy.

Rita is survived by her husband of almost 47 years, Bill; daughter Rebecca Legge (Jon); granddaughters Natalie, Bethany and Cassidy; brothers David Hancock (Sheila), Wayne Hancock (Brenda) and Ronnie Hancock (Mary); sisters Susan Yates (Bart), Joan Farrell (Chris) and Judy Mast (John); many nieces and nephews, extended family and wonderful friends.

Rita is preceded in death by her parents Chester and Hannah Hancock.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at La Plata United Methodist Church, 3 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Maryland, 20646.

Funeral services will be on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at La Plata United Methodist Church, 3 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Maryland, 20646. Interment will immediately follow at La Plata United Methodist Church Cemetery on Charles Street in Dentsville, Maryland.

Memorial contributions in Rita's name may be made to La Plata United Methodist Church, 3 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Maryland 20646 or to Hospice of the Chesapeake, 2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20603.

Cemetery Details

Dentsville Methodist Cemetery

East Charles Street
La Plata, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

La Plata United Methodist Church
3 Port Tobacco Rd
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-2288

Funeral Service

SEP 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

La Plata United Methodist Church
3 Port Tobacco Rd
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-2288

Tribute Wall

CD

“ Dear Rita’s family, we just heard the news about beautiful Rita. She was a real treasure and we are so lucky to have known her. She was a bright light whenever we went to the doctor’s office and when we talked to her on the phone. She will truly be missed by everyone who had the privilege to know her. Our deepest condolences and you are all in our thoughts and in my prayers. ❤️🙏🦋



Cecelia and Anthony Dunay - February 07 at 06:47 AM

CD

“ Cecelia And Anthony Dunay lit a candle in memory of Rita Ann Riley



Cecelia and Anthony Dunay - February 07 at 06:41 AM

MW

“ We were saddened to hear of Rita’s passing...unfortunately, we didn’t learn of it until after her services...she will always be remembered for her smile, kindness & support for each of our medical visits...she touched the hearts of many...
Bill & Muriel Werking

Muriel Werking - September 19, 2025 at 04:18 PM

CR

“ Rita was a smiling young lady that always made you feel special. I'm sorry for everyone's loss. She is out of pain and watching down on all of us. Rita you will be missed. Sending hugs to heaven for you Rita and love to your family. I didn't know you had gone to heaven until I called the church.

Chris Russell - September 19, 2025 at 04:02 PM

MC

“ Rita & Bill were wonderful neighbors when they lived next door to us on Washington Ave in LaPlata. We are saddened that Rita had been experiencing so much discomfort related to health issues. As Christians, our consolation is that Rita is in Heaven with Jesus. That is a Hope so many are missing.

Mike & I appreciated having Rita as a neighbor, a friend, and a comforter at Dr. Sanchez's office. We have lots of memories with Rita and Bill, and death can't take away those memories. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bill and Rebecca (whom Betty used to babysit) and to ALL family members, especially, those precious Grandchildren.

In Christian Love, Mike & Betty Cooper (Lumberton NC)

Mike & Betty Cooper - September 18, 2025 at 11:20 AM

PB

“ Condolences from the Still and Barnard family. So sorry to hear.

Pamela Barnard - September 17, 2025 at 10:35 AM

SW

“ From my Dad (Buddy Walter):

I've known the Hancock family my whole life. Nicest people anyone could ever meet and Rita was a true example of that. She will truly be missed by everyone who knew her. She had such a calming, peaceful nature. I felt like I was with family when we talked farming. My prayers to her and all her family. God bless her, with all her suffering, I know she's already in Heaven.



Samuel Walter - September 16, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



September 16, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



September 16, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Ann Riley.

September 16, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.*



September 16, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.*



September 16, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Ann Riley.*

September 16, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ *Love, Dave & Vickie Tippett purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Ann Riley.*



Love, Dave & Vickie Tippett - September 16, 2025 at 10:56 AM

SF

“ I was always nervous taking Mom to the doctor's office. Then seeing Rita smiling behind the desk would always calm me down. Mom might question what the doctor said but never what Rita said. We were blessed to have her looking out for us. Thank you.

Steve Suit & Family - September 15, 2025 at 02:08 PM

SC

“ Steve and Nancy Clark purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



Steve and Nancy Clark - September 15, 2025 at 01:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



September 15, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



September 15, 2025 at 12:33 PM

TC

“ Tommy and Pam Cooksey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



Tommy and Pam Cooksey - September 15, 2025 at 12:12 PM

YF

“ Your SoMD Velocity 11u family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



Your SoMD Velocity 11u family. - September 15, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



September 15, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Ann Riley.

September 15, 2025 at 11:07 AM

SF

“ Shirley Spalding and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



Shirley Spalding and family - September 15, 2025 at 09:10 AM

SF

“ Shirley Spalding and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Ann Riley.

Shirley Spalding and family - September 15, 2025 at 09:10 AM

LG

“ Rita never met a stranger or was without a smile when she met you Heaven has gained another angel My thoughts and prayers are with her family Lee Giannini

Lee Giannini - September 14, 2025 at 09:55 PM

TT

“ The Kindergarten Team purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



The Kindergarten Team - September 14, 2025 at 08:56 PM

TT

“ The Kindergarten Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Ann Riley.

The Kindergarten Team - September 14, 2025 at 08:56 PM

DB

“ Dale and Aunt Betty Bowling purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Rita Ann Riley.



Dale and Aunt Betty Bowling - September 14, 2025 at 07:28 PM